

# Women's Wisdom Appeal Letter

By LeRoy Chatfield

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Women.

Women's Wisdom.

Women's Wisdom Project.

Founded by women, sponsored by women and staffed by women who reach out to women living on the extreme edge of Sacramento's quality of life.

Women without stable housing, women on the street, women abused and raped, women who were teen-age mothers - and already grandmothers - women who have prostituted for survival and women who have been cycled in and out, in and out, of the city jail. Women strung out on drugs and alcohol. Women cast adrift, beset each day with grinding poverty, personal insecurity and feelings of worthlessness. Women scared out of their wits, fearing for their lives.

Macho victims.

Women without hope.

Women's Wisdom Project, founded by Sacramento women in 1991, reaches out to touch the lives of these marginalized women. Women's Wisdom provides a safe and caring place - an art studio on the edge of Curtis Park, next to the tracks. But much more than simply an art studio, rather, a fully equipped artist's workshop and gallery, staffed by volunteer artists who teach drawing, sculpting, painting, ceramics, weaving, drama, music, jewelry making and creative writing.

Women's Wisdom seeks out these women, women without hope, and reaches into their innermost core to touch a long-since-silenced spirit of creativity.

Women's Wisdom sparks and fuels within these women that inner soul fire needed to create objects of beauty and wonder. Suddenly, women seemingly without any resources whatsoever, unleash a creative spirit that bouys their being and propels them to transform their lives of poverty and despair into a life

of hope, a life of creative purpose. This new-found woman begins her inner journey of healing to create a new self.

Does Women's Wisdom really work? Yes, dozens of impoverished women from the streets of Sacramento - thanks to the dedicated work of staff and volunteers - have been empowered to take control of their own lives with creative purpose and personal accomplishment. Women's Wisdom walks with each woman on her own journey.

What is missing? Only the money needed to keep the doors of Women's Wisdom open, the lights on and the bills paid.

The 3-year start-up grant provided by the Sisters of Mercy, to fund the hopes and dreams of Women's Wisdom is finished in November of this year. The art programs have been reduced to only 3 days a week to conserve precious funds and buy time so that funds can be raised.

Small grants have been received throughout the work of developing the Project but most of these grants will not be renewed because these groups feel that they have already "done their part". And we really can't complain, because without them Women's Wisdom would not have come this far or accomplished this much. We are grateful and we thank them. They donated money to us that Women's Wisdom might have the opportunity to exist for these women without hope.

With hope and determination, we ask you: Will you become a financial patron of Women's Wisdom? Will you join with us in our work? Will you write us a check today because you believe, as we do, that impoverished women in our community need the opportunity empower themselves, to take charge of their own lives?

Can we count on you to help Women's Wisdom Project survive beyond November? And not only survive day-to-day as we do now, but to build a financial base from which to reach out and touch the lives of more women, women without hope.

For the sake of the women we seek to serve, please help us today!

Board of Directors, Staff & Volunteers  
Women's Wisdom Project

